(b) if so, the capacity thereof per hour;

(c) whether the same has been patented; and

(d) whether the Government propose to use the above machine in defence and other big organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 500 chappatis per hour.

(c) Three separate Indian patents covering the design of the machine have been filed.

(d) The machine is useful for small industrial and institutional kitchens including small defence establishment.

Water Supply Schemes in Karnataka

731. SHRI K.C. KONDAIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had sent any proposal for taking up water supply schemes with the assistance of Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund of Japan;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the same and the places proposed to be covered under the above schemes;

(c) whether the survey work on the proposed schemes has been taken up; and

(d) if so, the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) (a) and (b) The government of Karnataka had submitted a proposal for Urban Water supply in 19 towns namely, Kunigal, Sira, K.R. Nagar. Hunsur, Harihara, Chitra Durga, Udupi, Chikmagalur, Zakshmeshwar, Basavana Bagewadi, Lingasugur, Raichur, Karwar, Basavakalyan, Gulbarga, Hassan, Shimoga, Hubli Dharwad and Bijapur at an estimated cost of Rs.396.50 crores for OECF loan assistance.

(c) and (d) A Fact Finding Mission from the OECF, Tokyo visited India from 19th January to 21st February, 1997 to study and examine the feasibility of the aforesaid project.

Training in Solar Photovoltaic System

732. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Renewable Energy Development Agency and Indian Institute of Technology have decided to provide practical training in solar photovoltaic system;

(b) if so, the details of programme for training;

(c) the financial allocation made for the purpose;

(d) whether such a training programme was conducted by some State Governments; and

(e) If so, outcome thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) is organizing training programmes in solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems under the World Bank assisted SPV Market Development Project. The training courses are being conducted through the Siemens Solar Systems at the Indian Institutes of Technology (I.I.T.) at Madras, Bombay and Delhi during 1995-96 to 1997-98. The programme is meant for creating trained manpower in the SPV Sector in the country.

So far training courses on SPV System Design and Engineering for engineers have been organized in different batches at I.I.T. Madras from October 1995 to January 1996 and at I.I.T. Delhi from December 1996 to January 1997. In addition, training courses for technicians have been organized at I.I.T. Madras from April 1996 to July 1996.

(c) An allocation of Rs.358.84 lakhs has been made for this training programme under the technical assistance component of the World Bank assisted SPV Market Development Project being implemented by IREDA.

(d) and (e) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have conducted some training Programmes for the technical personnel involved in the SPV Programme in their States with a view to improving the quality of implementation. These Programmes have helped develop skills in the installation and maintenance of photovoltaic systems among the trainees.

[Translation]

Minimum Common Programme

733. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government, in its Minimum Common Programme, have promised for development of the backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, the names of States alongwith their backward districts for which a development scheme is being prepared; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is considering constitution

of a Committee to evolve the criteria for identification of 100 most backward and poorest districts in the country. The actual identification of backward districts and preparation of infrastructure development plans shall be based on the report of this Committee.

[English]

Assignment to Retired Officers

734. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the senior Government officials of the rank of Joint Secretary and above have to seek permission of the Government before they take up any assignment including commercial after retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of officers who have been given permission during the years 1995 and 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) A Group 'A' officer is required to obtain the previous sanction of the Central Government before taking up a commercial employment before the expiry of two years from the date of his retirement.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

As per available information, the under-mentioned officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above were granted permission during 1995 and 1996 to undertake post retirement; commercial employment within two years of retirement.

1. Shri S.C. Gupta,
Chief Engineer (Designs),
Ministry of Urban Development,
New Delhi.

2. Shri K.K. Trikha,
Group General Manager,
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited,
New Delhi.

3. Shri R. Srinivasan,
Adviser (Production)
Telecom Commission,
Department of Telecommunications,
New Delhi.

4. Shri Y.P. Gambhir,
Chairman,
Central Electricity Authority,
Ministry of Power,
New Delhi.

5. Shri V.K. Arora,
Chief Engineer (Roads),
Ministry of Surface Transport,
New Delhi.

6. Shri Manjit Singh,
General Manager,
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited,
Department of Telecommunications,
New Delhi.

7. Shri S.M. Gambhir,
Chief General Manager,
Telecom Projects,
Department of Telecommunications,
New Delhi.

8. Dr. M.S.S. Prabhu,
Scientist / Engineer,
Indian Space Research Organisation
Satellite Centre,
Department of Space,
Bangalore.

9. Shri N.C.S.R. Acharyulu,
General Manager (Development)
Hyderabad Telecom District,
Department of Telecommunications,
New Delhi.

10. Shri S.S. Goyal,
General Manager,
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited,
Department of Telecommunications,
New Delhi.

11. Shri H.S. Agarwal,
Adviser,
Railway Board,
Ministry of Railways,
New Delhi.

12. Shri M.A. Ramanan,
Member (Thermal),
Central Electricity Authority,
Ministry of Power,
New Delhi.

13. Shri S.K. Pandey,
Adviser (Operations),
Department of Telecommunication,
New Delhi.

14. Shri N.R. Sivaswamy,
Chairman,
Central Board of Direct Taxes,
Department of Revenue,
New Delhi.